

ORGANIZATION OF THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

JUNE 13, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HULL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10624.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10624) to provide for the better organization of the Quartermaster's Department, with a view to the proper transaction of the large volume of additional work placed upon such department by the sudden increase of the regular and volunteer forces of the Army, report the same back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

In line 5, section 3, strike out the words "who have served not less than one year."

Add, as section 5 of the bill, the following:

SEC. 5. That upon the close of hostilities in the present war with Spain the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause be sold, under the direction of the Secretary of War, any surplus quartermaster's property, or other military property, whenever in his opinion the sale of such property will be advantageous to the public service, all such sales to be made after inspection as provided for in section twelve hundred and forty-one of the Revised Statutes, and under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to provide for the better organization of the Quartermaster's Department, with a view to the proper transaction of the large volume of additional work placed upon such department by the sudden increase of the regular and volunteer forces of the Army, and providing for sale of surplus property at the close of the war."

From an examination of the Statutes at Large from 1861 to 1866 there does not appear to be any specific law passed by Congress during these years relative to the sale of public property which accumulated during the war of the rebellion. There was, however, already a law in existence, which is now section 1241, Revised Statutes, which was passed by Congress March 3, 1825, which reads as follows:

The President may cause to be sold any military stores which, upon proper inspection or survey, appear to be damaged or unsuitable for the public service. Such inspection or survey shall be made by officers designated by the Secretary of War, and the sale shall be made under regulations prescribed by him.

The records of the War Department show that on April 28, 1865, the Secretary issued an order for the reduction of expenses of the military establishment, in which all purchases of quartermaster's supplies, railroad construction and transportation, were stopped and the civilian employees reduced accordingly.

The Secretary of War, following up this subject, issued another order, dated June 15, 1865, directing that immediate steps be taken with a view to the disposition and sale of property pertaining to the Quartermaster's Department.

It further appears, from the records of the Quartermaster-General's office, that under the orders above referred to public animals belonging to the Quartermaster's Department were first sold, and between May 1, 1865, and August 2, 1866, some \$15,269,075.54 was realized from the sale of these public animals; and further, the total amount realized between the dates last mentioned for public property pertaining to the Quartermaster's Department amounted to \$30,478,579.44. (See Annual Report of Quartermaster-General, 1866.)

The sale of surplus clothing and camp and garrison equipage on hand at the close of the war was made after retaining about ten years' supply for the Army. These sales were not completed until February, 1868. The retained stock of clothing and equipage lasted the Army until 1871 or 1872.

Under Revised Statutes 1241 and Army Regulations 878 to 889 unserviceable and unsuitable property may be inspected, condemned, and sold at auction for cash, as provided in Army Regulations 679, and the proceeds, after deducting expenses of sale, will be deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States as "miscellaneous receipts on account of Government property" (A. R. 615), in the manner provided in Army Regulations 608 and 609.

Hereto annexed and made a part of this report is a statement showing the organization of the Quartermaster's Department from 1860 to 1866; also in 1898.

Organization of Quartermaster's Department.

1860.	
Regular establishment:	
Brigadier-general	1
Colonels	2
Lieutenant-colonels	2
Majors	4
Captains	28
Military storekeepers	7
Total	44
Volunteers, none.	
1861.	
Regular establishment:	
Brigadier-general	1
Colonels	3
Lieutenant-colonels	4
Majors	8
Captains	48
Military storekeepers	7
Total	71
Volunteers:	
Captain and assistant quartermasters	56

1862.

Regular establishment:

Brigadier-general	1
Colonels	3
Lieutenant-colonels	4
Majors	11
Captains	41
Military storekeepers	7
Total	67

Volunteers:

Captain and assistant quartermasters	107
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1863.

Regular establishment:

Brigadier-general	1
Colonels	3
Lieutenant-colonels	4
Majors	11
Captains	48
Military storekeepers	12
Total	79

Volunteers:

Captain and assistant quartermasters	417
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1864.

Regular establishment:

Brigadier-general	1
Colonels	3
Lieutenant-colonels	4
Majors	11
Captains	46
Military storekeepers	10
Total	75

Volunteers:

Captain and assistant quartermasters	457
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1865.

Regular establishment:

Brigadier-general	1
Colonels	3
Lieutenant-colonels	4
Majors	11
Captains	46
Military storekeepers	10
Total	75

Volunteers:

Captain and assistant quartermasters	568
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1866.

Regular establishment:

Brigadier-general	1
Colonels	3
Lieutenant-colonels	4
Majors	11
Captains	48
Military storekeepers	12
Total	79

Volunteers:

Captains	100
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1898.

Regular establishment:

Brigadier-general.....	1
Colonels.....	4
Lieutenant-colonels.....	8
Majors.....	14
Captains.....	30
Total.....	57

Volunteers:

Lieutenant-colonels from regular establishment.....	6
Lieutenant-colonel, civilian.....	1
	7
Majors from regular establishment.....	12
Majors, civilian.....	4
Majors, line officers.....	2
	18
Captain and assistant quartermasters, civilian.....	46
Captain and assistant quartermasters, line officers.....	7
	53
Total.....	78

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